

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

VISION

Our youth flourish and contribute to safer communities for a lifetime.

MISSION

Guided by compassion and hope, we serve youth in and at-risk of being in conflict with the law on a journey towards reintegration and purposeful living.

RESPECT INTEGRITY COMPASSION EXCELLENCE

**The future is helping youth
flourish and
contribute to safer
communities
for a lifetime.**



ferniework.ca

Welcome To Our Fernie Family

A Message From Our CEO



To Our Partners, Supporters, and Community,

I am pleased to introduce Fernie Youth Services' 2025/2026 Annual Report. This past year, your belief in our mission has shown up daily in the lives of the young people we serve.

We are deeply grateful for the trust, partnership, and generosity of our community contributions that fuel our mission and allow us to deliver consistent, uninterrupted services to youth in need.

The challenges facing youth today continue to be persistent: unemployment, housing instability, rising crime, and intersecting barriers that limit opportunities. Nevertheless, our organization remains active in our response. We are diving deeper each year to walk alongside these young people – building safety, innovating our approaches, and providing the tools they need to carve a path forward with dignity, strength, inspiration, and hope.

This past year was a transformative milestone for Fernie Youth Services. Thanks to the extraordinary commitment of our team and the generous trust of our partners, we expanded our reach, strengthened our core programs, and deepened our impact across every community we touch.

We continue to lean in and listen to the needs of our youth, meeting them with compassion and care. Every achievement of the last 12 months reflects a shared belief in our mission, **Caring Beyond Reason®**. With the right tools, relationships, and support, we know that every young person can build a thriving future.

I am especially proud of our staff team who dedicate themselves to serving our youth with utmost care every single day.

To our incredible team, dedicated partners, and generous donors who believe in us: thank you for turning our vision into tangible impact.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in white ink on a red background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Jeff Johnson'.

Jeff Johnson
CEO of Fernie Youth Services

A Fernie Youth Snapshot

Our Impact in Action

2025-2026

Fernie Youth Services: Our Year in Numbers

Across our programs, we walk alongside young people to build safety, confidence, and dignity. This year, your support made these milestones possible:

Safe Housing & Reintegration

- **350 Youth Supported:** Guided through our FYS housing, open custody, reintegration, and employment pathways.

- **75 Youth Welcomed:** Received immediate care, stability, and positive path-planning at Island Road open custody.

- **8 Youth Equipped:** Set actionable goals and developed critical life skills through Transition House workshops.

Employment & Social Enterprise

- **30 Properties Maintained Weekly:** Handled by our youth crew at **Fernie Works Lawncare**, fostering essential job readiness and entrepreneurial skills.

Community Access & Mobility

- **200 Youth Assisted:** Provided with essential transportation, community resources, and new opportunities through CAP.



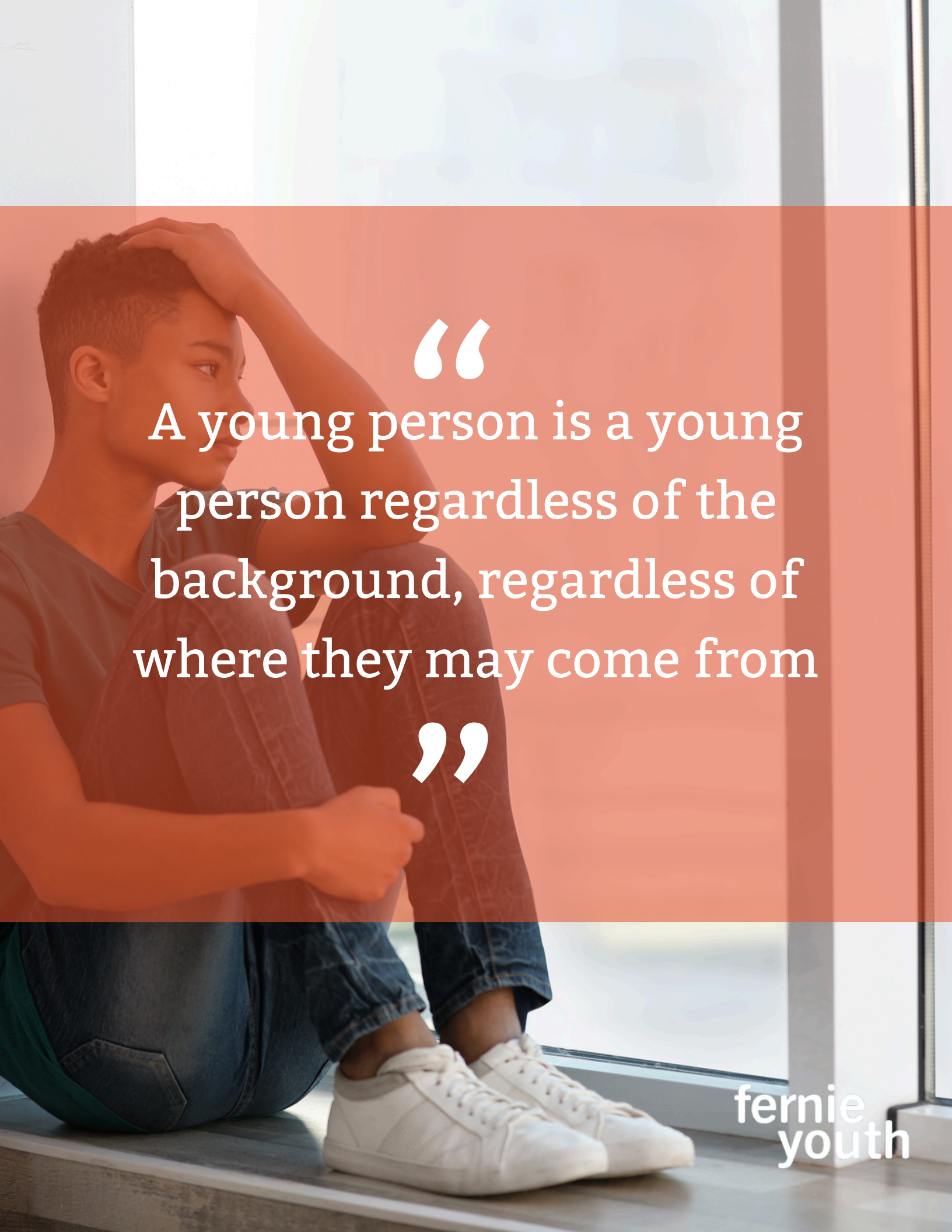
Welcome To Our Fernie Family

Board of Directors

- Claudia Jones | **Chair**
- Augustine Arputhamani | **Vice Chair**
- Jo-Anne Cusimano | **Secretary**
- Roger Caracciolo | **Director**
- Darlene Gablenz | **Director**
- Steve Howlett | **Director**
- Bilal Shirazi | **Director**

**100+ volunteer hours
from our board**

Strengthening impact behind the scenes.

A young person with short dark hair is sitting on a windowsill, looking out a window. They are wearing a grey t-shirt, blue jeans, and white sneakers. Their right hand is resting on their head, and their left hand is resting on their knee. The background is a bright, slightly blurred view of a city or landscape through the window. The entire image has a semi-transparent orange overlay.

“
A young person is a young
person regardless of the
background, regardless of
where they may come from
”

fern
youth

Fernie Milestones

Island Road's 50th Anniversary

In February 2026, our Island Road Open Custody Facility reached its milestone of 50 years serving youth in conflict with the law, giving them the chance to learn from their mistakes. This all began in 1964, when George Fernie met a 16-year-old boy who had just been released from Don Jail after 14 days in custody. Moved to compassion, Fernie arranged food, shelter, and a plan to get the young man support.

What happens when someone refuses to give up on justice-involved youth? For 50 years, the Island Road Open Custody Facility has been answering that question.

When we think of our Island Road Custody Facility, we imagine the ripple effect it has on every single youth served. Every day, young people are working to move past their past choices and rejoin society in a positive way. Our facility continues to reach youth with positive influences, relationships, and daily mentorship – helping them build a positive future.



Supporting youth builds purposeful adulthood



Fernie Youth Services Program Updates

Relational Care. Meaningful Impact.

Our staff, mentors, and Youth Justice Workers connect daily with vulnerable youth to build a foundation of trust, presence, and resilience. Driven by our **"Caring Beyond Reason"** philosophy, we support marginalized youth navigating the justice system, homelessness, food insecurity, and education or employment barriers. We don't just provide services - we walk alongside each young person to leverage their strengths, cultivate personal growth, and build paths to a stable future.

YTS, TYES, and CAP/Reintegration Fund

In 2025–2026, we provided youth transitioning from custody or care back into their communities with a smooth and stable reintegration.

Youth across the Greater Toronto Area are landing in our programs where structure, caring support, and guidance are offered daily.

With our reintegration programs, **Youth Transition Services (YTS)**, **Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES)**, and the **Community Access Program (CAP)/Reintegration Fund** ensure:

- Personal mentorship
- Case management
- Wraparound support
- Transportation
- Financial assistance
- Youth can get to appointments like court, medical, and school through the CAP program.



*Programs like this one are vital – they’re lifelines. They provide young people the **second chance** they deserve to grow into purposeful, empowered young people who contribute meaningfully to their communities.*

Key Highlights

- **Amplifying Youth Voices:** Partnering with the **Youth Opportunities Fund** to ensure youth guide and shape our sector and program development.
- **Holistic Staff Training:** Empowering our team with ongoing trauma-informed and accountability-focused training to provide the highest standard of care.
- **More Than Transportation:** Community Access Program actively models safety, consistency, and positive relationships for GTA youth.
- **Stronger Partnerships:** Expanding community networks to bring more resources, support, and pathways directly to youth.

Specialized Programs

Fernie Works



Through our employment and trades-based social enterprise, Fernie Works, young men build a foundation for long-term stability:

Holistic Support: Employment readiness, certifications, and personal growth across Fall, Spring, and Summer.

Community Impact: Empowering resilient youth to invest in themselves and give back locally.

Supported by partners: Made possible through the generous support of our community partners.

12 youth successfully completed 3-phase YESS program



Achieved high school credit completion and graduation readiness



Secured part-time jobs and applied to post-secondary programs



Strengthened personal development and mental health resilience



Specialized Programs

Beat Builders

Beat Builders uses music-based programming to help youth build confidence, creative talents, and employment skills while forging deep community connections.

Supported Growth: Crucial funding and partnerships with **Air Canada Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Minto Greenberg Legacy Foundation, Ecclesiastical Insurance Community Impact, and Morrison Family Foundation** allowed us to expand program access.

Mentorship & Opportunity: Youth gained direct access to positive mentors and industry professionals, preparing them for a thriving future.

Looking Forward: With a strengthened foundation, we are positioned to reach even more young creatives in the coming year.



Specialized Programs

Transition House



Across 2025–2026, **Transition House** continued to bridge the gap between custody and independent living. Our caring youth workers stood alongside our youth to guide, mentor, and provide life skill workshops and supports on-site from recreation, financial literacy, grocery shopping, and well-being guidance.

Together, we helped young men gain skills in independent living and healthy decision-making. We are incredibly proud of every young man's accomplishment from employment stability, newly landed opportunities, and their shared skills within their communities.

“

It has completely improved my physical, mental, and spiritual health overall – This Transition house does a lot of important work for young people, and my own experience over the last five months is proof of that.

”

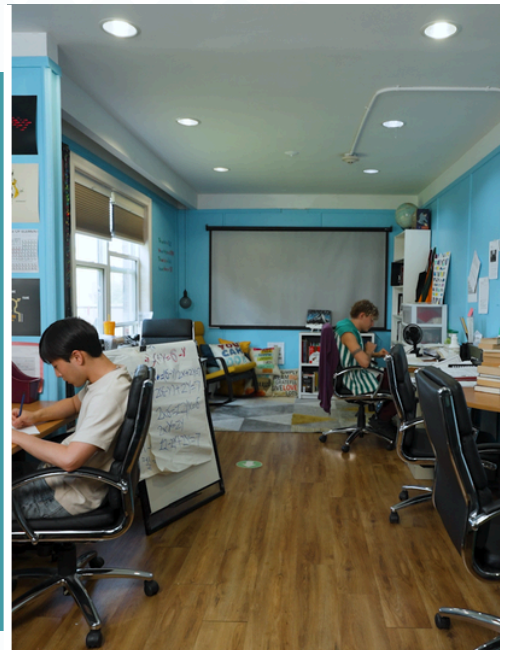
Open Custody

Island Road

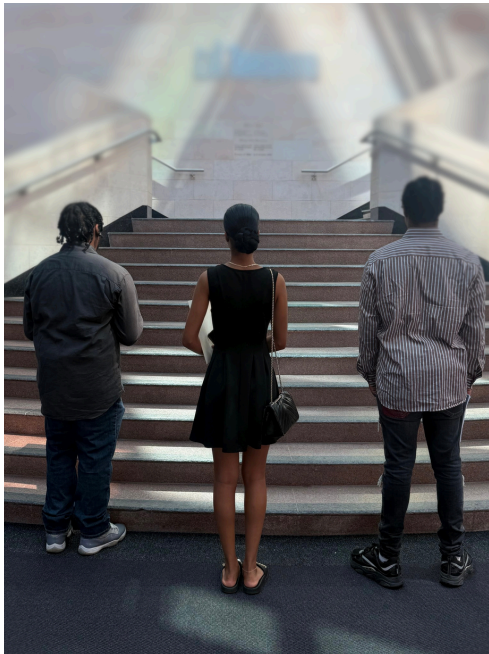
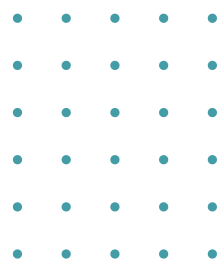
Throughout the year, we've celebrated the completion of high school credits, skill building, and recreational activities for youth in open custody.

Our safe and supportive environment encourages personal development, counselling, and education resources for youth preparing for their return to their communities. Our caring youth workers guide our youth daily, celebrating their skills to encourage healthy progress and self-development.

Throughout the year, our youth are always engaged in intentional programming and events to feel seen, valued, and supported.



Solicitor General - Mentorship Program



The Ministry of the Solicitor General - Mentorship Program

empowers young adults (18+) who are involved in high-risk environments. Mentors focus on personal strengths to help young adults shift their mindsets, break destructive cycles, and build strong, positive identities rooted in safety and personal accountability.

Through trusted one-on-one relationships, tailored goal-planning, and pro-social skill development, this vital work creates enduring change that enhances public safety and enriches our entire community.



"Before Fernie, I did not have a home for a long time. Sometimes I was in jail. My mentors here taught me self-respect and to trust others."

Community Gathering Coldest Night of the Year



Thank you!

We could not do this work without your generosity and passion for Scarborough East.



It is our communities that anchor our youth

Every year, hosting our community at the **Coldest Night of the Year** walk is one of our favourite ways to accelerate our mission for youth in need. Our dedicated supports always show up – and this year was no exception. Despite the freezing weather, walkers, team captains, and local business sponsors came together to make a lasting difference.

We wrapped up the walk with warm conversations, hot meals, and hot chocolate, celebrating what we can accomplish when we unite around shared values.

The Impact of Your Support

Funds raised by our participating teams allow youth to receive essential support to build purposeful futures within our programs, including:

Job Readiness & Training
Work gear, professional certifications, safety equipment



Education & Growth
Learning materials, educational experiences, recreation support



Daily Necessities
Everyday essentials, food security, safe home environment



Participating Teams

Thank you to all our teams! Your hard work ensures smooth, uninterrupted services for the youth who rely on us:

- Fernie Youth Services – Board
- St. Joseph's Highland Creek CWL
- Fernie Cares
- Grace Church West Hill
- Rotary Scarborough Care Bears
- Saint Lawrence District
- Effrey Cadasse
- Guildwood Walking Group
- Starbucks D2094 Scarborough East-Durham
- Starbucks District 263
- Malvern Onyx Lions Club
- Amani School
- DATgamma
- West Hill – Highland Creek Lions
- ICNA Sisters Toronto
- CCRA
- Notfall
- Urban Rez

**your generosity
powers programs
that transform youth
in your community**

VISIT [CNOY.ORG/LOCATION/SCARBOROUGH-EAST](https://cnoy.org/location/scarborough-east)

coldest
***night**
OF THE YEAR

fernienyouth

People & Culture

Events & Staff Connections

Black History Month

We were delighted to celebrate Black History Month with our Fernie staff team with great food, activities, and togetherness. At Fernie, we see that resilience daily in the youth we work alongside, matched by the dedication of our caring staff who invest deeply in the young people who will shape what comes next.

By honouring the rich diversity of the Black diaspora – its histories, language, food, faith, and music – we ensure our care is not only responsive, but deeply effective, authentic, and empowering.

We look forward to honouring the brilliance, resilience, and the generations of Black Canadians who have built and continue to shape our communities!



George Fernie Day

Heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff team for making this event possible. It was an inspiring day of connection, reflection, and celebration. George Fernie's spirit lives on every day in the work happening across Island Road, Transition House, YTS, TYES, Beat Builders, Fernie Works, and beyond.

Together, we continue to carry his compassion and legacy forward.

People & Culture

Events & Staff Connections

Program Outing - Island Road

Our incredible Island Road front-line team enjoyed a well-deserved team-bonding experience with some friendly competition at BATL Grounds Axe Throwing. This dedicated group models positive relationships every day - offering our youth:

- Mentorship
- Support
- Guidance across life skills
- Recreation
- Health, Cooking, and Wellness

Thank you to our Island Road team for your unwavering commitment!



Our Network of Support

Shared Vision & Partnerships

Every contribution echoes through our programs, creating more opportunities and better services to help youth succeed and thrive. Because of your support, at-risk youth have the opportunity to transform their lives and create safer communities for a lifetime.

Thank you to our donors, funders, supporters, and partners!

Government

- Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- City of Toronto
- Ontario Trillium Foundation

Fernie's Partners & Major Donors

- Grace Church West Hill
- Presbytery of Pickering
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Melville Presbyterian Church
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Centennial Community Recreation Association
- David Lake
- Robert Anderson
- Carl Nash
- Major Cooke
- Sarah Haw
- John Eliopoulos
- Michael Graham
- Bruce Petit
- lululemon Scarborough Town Centre
- Canada Goose
- Enterprise/Taylor Charitable Entities
- Heathbridge Capital Management

Foundations

- The Minto Greenberg Legacy Foundation
- Ecclesiastical Insurance
- Fernie Youth Foundation
- Morrison Family Foundation
- Air Canada Foundation
- Second Harvest
- Starbucks Foundation
- Hallmark Giving Charity Foundation
- Gordon and Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation



Ministry of
Children, Community &
Social Services



HEATHBRIDGE
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LTD.

Ontario



CCRA



lululemon



THE
STARBUCKS
FOUNDATION



FONDATION
AIR CANADA
FOUNDATION



ecclesiastical

HALLMARK
giving

enterprise

second
harvest



Grace Church West Hill

HALO

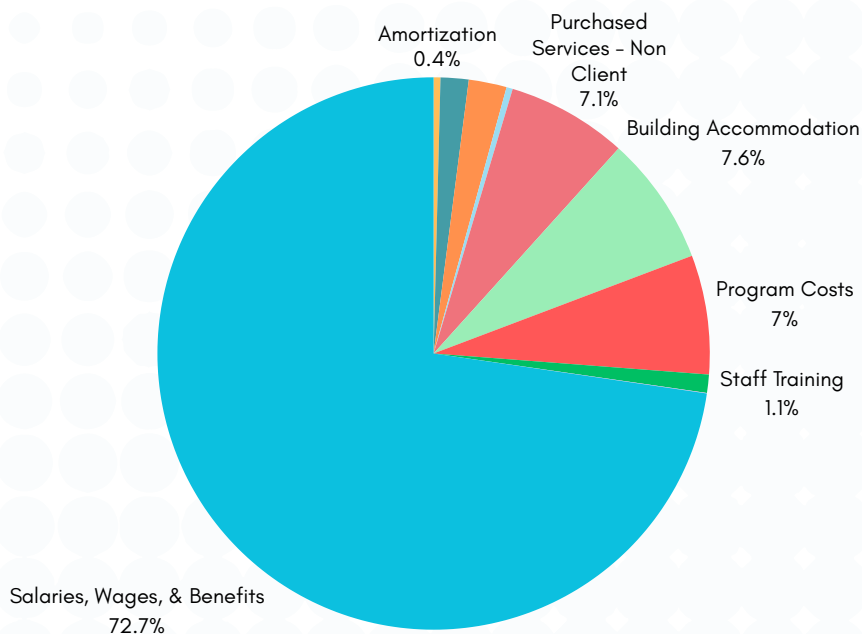
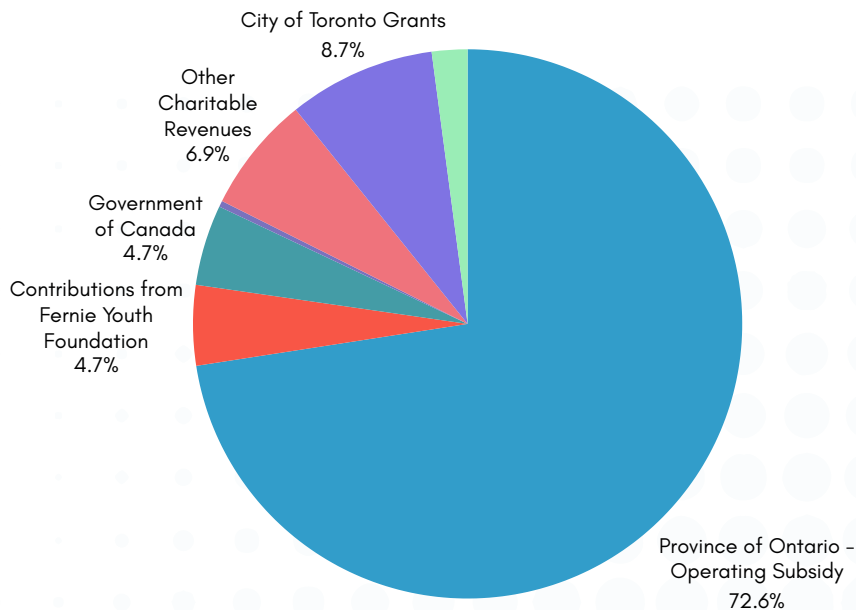
A division of The Minto Greenberg Legacy Foundation



The
Presbyterian
Church in Canada

THE GOODER
FOUNDATION

A snapshot Fernie Financials



2025-2026 Revenue

Province of Ontario -
Operating Subsidy

\$2,199,147

Contributions from
Fernie Youth Foundation

\$143,000

Government of Canada

\$143,841

Interest Revenue

\$10,935

Other Charitable Revenues

\$207,762

City of Toronto Grants

\$262,638

General Contributions

\$63,534

2025-2026 Expenses

Amortization

\$12,119

Transportation & Staff Travel

\$49,873

Office Administration & General Expense

\$67,588

Purchased Services - Client

\$11,160

Purchased Services - Non Client

\$214,670

Building Accommodation

\$230,210

Program Costs

\$212,147

Staff Training

\$32,482

Advertising & Promotion

\$894

Salaries, Wages, & Benefits

\$2,211,838

**Every young person
deserves a second chance
and a brighter future.**



Spread the word

Follow and share our mission.



Donate

Every contribution creates opportunities.



Be a Champion of Hope

Donate today at fernienyouth.ca



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